

ALASKA FARM REPORTER

Alaska Division of Agriculture
Alaska Cooperative Extension
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 799
Palmer, AK 99645

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04-11

2004 Alaska Crop Summary

The 2004 growing season started out slowly in May as producers waited for the ground to warm up and dry out. By mid June temperatures were above normal and precipitation was below normal across the state and remained that way until September. The hot, dry conditions prevented many producers from taking a second cutting of hay due to poor stand regrowth. Other crops were also impacted by the hot, dry weather. However, those producers with irrigation saw good to excellent yields on their hay, potato and vegetable crops.

ALASKA CROP SUMMARY 2003 & 2004

	Acres Planted for All Purposes		Acres Harvested for Grain		Yield (Bu/Acre)		Production (Bu)	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
BARLEY								
Tanana Valley	3,600	4,300	3,300	4,100	38.8	35.0	128,000	143,500
Matanuska Valley	400	300	200	100	35.0	15.0	7,000	1,500
State Total	4,000	4,600	3,500	4,200	38.6	34.5	135,000	145,000
OATS								
State Total	2,700	2,200	1,200	1,300	28.3	31.5	34,000	41,000

		Acres Harvested		Yield (Tons/Acre)		Production (Tons)	
ALL HAY		2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Tanana Valley		9,400	9,400	1.22	1.40	11,500	13,200
Matanuska Valley		9,600	9,100	1.41	1.33	13,500	12,100
Kenai Peninsula 1/		3,000	2,500	1.33	1.08	4,000	2,700
State Total		22,000	21,000	1.32	1.33	29,000	28,000

	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield (Cwt/Acre)		Production (Cwt)	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
POTATOES 1/								
State Total	930	870	800	810	210	230	168,000	186,000

1/ Potato acreage and production are preliminary data that will be revised in December if necessary.

MILK PRODUCTION

October milk production in **ALASKA** totaled 1.1 million pounds, down 15% from last year and down 8% from the revised September 2004 production data. Production per cow averaged 940 pounds, down 100 pound from October 2003. Milk cows at 1,200 head were unchanged from last year.

Production during the first ten months of 2004 totaled 12.3 million pounds compared with 14.5 million pounds during the same period in 2003, a decrease of 15% from the same period last year.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during October totaled 12.2 billion pounds, up 1.3 percent from October 2003. September revised production, at 11.9 billion pounds, was up 1.3 percent from September 2003. The September revision represented a decrease of 1 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,576 pounds for October, 15 pounds above October 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 26,000 head more than October 2003, but unchanged from September 2004.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE RESPONDED TO OUR SURVEYS!

Dear Alaska Farmers,

Our annual Acreage & Production Survey was mailed out October 1st. We have published the results of this survey in this issue of the Alaska Farm Reporter. We have also recently mailed out our 2004 Alaska Agricultural Statistics Bulletin, as well as our pocket calendars. We appreciate every one of you who took the time to report data to us so that we can present a complete and accurate picture of how "Agriculture Counts" in Alaska.

Sue

ALASKA GREENHOUSE & NURSERY CONFERENCE

January 26th & 27th, 2004
Best Western Lake Lucille Inn
Wasilla, Alaska
For more information contact:
Peter Bierman (907) 745-3360

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